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Security Council

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Identical letters dated 23 August 2011 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a government communiqué regarding the seizure of a cargo of 1,200 kg of cassiterite on board a MONUSCO vehicle at the Congolese-Rwandan border (see annex).

My Government deplores this new case of blatant misconduct, which bears out earlier allegations of illegal trafficking and questionable conduct, including sexual misconduct, by certain United Nations staff members in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Worse, this mafia-like activity is likely to encourage continued breaches of international peace and security, directly violating the relevant Security Council resolutions aimed at restoring peace to my country. Undertaking a peacekeeping operation does not give the operation a licence to engage in criminal activities on Congolese soil.

My Government would be grateful if the Security Council could mount an inquiry and publish its findings, with a view to identifying measures to ensure that the United Nations ceases its illegal exploitation of the natural resources of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

It also reiterates its request to see the conclusion of other inquiries that had been promised in a large number of cases involving sexual violence imputed to other United Nations staff members (ex-MONUC) and the imposition of appropriate penalties.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ileka **Atoki**
Ambassador

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Annex to the identical letters dated 23 August 2011 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Government communiqué

The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo confirms the report issued on Monday, 22 August 2011, by certain media outlets regarding the seizure of minerals from a MONUSCO vehicle at the Congolese-Rwandan border.

On Sunday, 21 August 2011, the border police, acting together with other security services deployed at Grande Barrière in Goma, seized a cargo comprising 24 packages of cassiterite, each weighing 50 kg, thus totalling 1,200 kg, on board a MONUSCO jeep with registration No. 1727. The vehicle was being driven by Mr. Julien Mukala, holder of MONUSCO identification card No. 50316.

The incident was subsequently confirmed by the provincial civil and military authorities, and also by MONUSCO officials, including Mr. Kaboré, who had been approached for that purpose by the Governor of Nord-Kivu province, Mr. Julien Paluku.

The Government deplores such illegal trafficking, which not only impoverishes the Democratic Republic of the Congo but also helps to maintain the insecurity in this part of the country: it serves to promote the illegal trade in blood minerals which the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the international community are so resolutely opposing.

This incident calls into question the extent to which certain members of the United Nations mission are complying with the relevant Security Council resolutions governing their presence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and abiding by Congolese law.

In any event, on Monday of this week the Goma prosecutor's office initiated legal proceedings following detection in flagrante delicto, in order to establish the full truth in this matter. A second suspect, identified as such during the preliminary investigation, has already been taken into custody.

The Government hopes that MONUSCO will do everything in its power to ensure that there is no repetition of these abuses.

Issued at Kinshasa, 22 August 2011

(*Signed*) Lambert **Mende Omalanga**